DELANO GRAPE STRIKE CALENDER

August 23------- Registered letters mailed by AWOC Strike Director Larry Itliong to Delano area growers requesting a meeting to discuss wages and working conditions during the current harvest season. All but two were returned either refused or unclaimed. No growers were present for the meeting with Itliong.

September 6------AWOC members and other area grape pickers hold meeting with AWOC officials to discuss possibility of calling a strike against most table grape growers in Tulare and Kern County. Some of these growers include DiGiorgio with 4,600 acres, Schenley with 3,500 acres, Caratan with 3,000 acres, Divicich with 2,500 acres, Perelli-Minetti with 2,100 acres and Zaninovich with 1,150 acres.

September 7------A second mass meeting was held and workers voted to go on strike the following day.

September 8------The strike actually begins. Workers are asking for $1.40 an hour and 25 cents per box. Improved working conditions are also sought. Over 1,000 workers involved, mostly Filipinos.

September 18-----Members of the National Farm Workers Association vote to join the strike following a meeting between the AWOC's Larry Itliong and the NFWA's Cesar Chavez. Both organizations pledge full support to each other.

September 20-----Vineyards from McFarland to Tipton are picketed by NFWA and AWOC pickets. First violence of the strike results from grower action.

September 21-----The California Council of Churches, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, the Congress of Racial Equality, along with other groups who have supported the strike since this time with bodies on the picket lines, contributed money, food and clothing to the strike. Without them and our brothers and sisters unionists we would seen our strike go down the drain a long time ago.

October 19-------Forty-four pickets including nine ministers were arrested on a charge of unlawful assembly and failure to disperse. Most spent the night in jail until funds could be raised for their release. Later following a trial, all were found innocent and released.

November 13------Four caravans of over 25 cars and trucks bring tons of food to strikers. Growers are falling further behind in their harvest.

December 16------The AFL-CIO at its San Francisco convention goes on record as giving the strike its full support and urging its member unions to give "moral and financial' assistance".

December 16------UAW President Walter P. Reuther focuses full attention on Delano nationally when he comes to Delano and promises to support the two striking unions with $5,000 a month until the end of the strike.

December 25------Members of both unions enjoy a turkey for their Christmas dinner thanks to the generosity of many very nice people. At the same time, children of strikers played with toys they had no hope of ever receiving. Christmas, 1965, will be one Christmas no member of AWOC will ever forget.

January 1———The start of a new year and strikers show the same faith and hope of their just cause as they did at the start of the strike back nearly four months ago. Pickets estimate growers are having to recruit 10 workers in order to retain one.

February 20——AWOC Strike Director Larry Itliong scabs long enough to pick have his picture taken by a AWOC photographer picking grapes. The growers claimed all the grapes had been picked, but the picture proved otherwide. Normally the harvest of grapes is over by mid-November but this was extended beyond mid-January. Grapes packed by inexperienced packers rotted in the cold storage houses and had to be dumped and sent to the wineries.

March 16———It was "Operation Cleanup" in Delano as the U. S. Senate Committee on Migratory Labor headed up by Senator Harrison Williams visited Delano. Growers cleaned up their camps to make the best possible impression upon the good men from Washington. Earlier in the week the Senators including George Murphy of California and Robert F. Kennedy of New York, visited Visalia and Sacramento. They were unhappy with what they heard and seen.

March 17———The 300 mile pilgrimage from Delano to Sacramento began. The marchers still had 299.9 miles to go when stopped by a Delano Police Department barricade. After retreating from their barricade as gracefully as they could, the police allowed the marchers to go on without any more interference anywhere along the way. Police officers who accompanied the marchers had nothing but praise for their conduct.

April 6———The Schenley Industries Inc. today signed an agreement recognizing the NFWA as the representatives of their farm workers in the Delano area. The announcement was made in Los Angeles after NFWA Director Cesar Chavez and the Director of Organizations for the AFL-CIO had signed the agreement. Also signing was W. J. Bassett, Executive Secretary for the Los Angeles Federation of Labor. Negotiations are to start in Los Angeles within 30 days. The Delano to Sacramento marchers arrived in Thornton today and were elated by the news.

April 7———DiGiorgio offers to hold elections on Marysville and Delano ranches. Union turns down DiGiorgio officer stating there are conditions in which the union has no voice. Union also boycott DiGiorgio hearings attended by a socalled company union representatives.

April 10———Marchers, 10,000 strong arrive in Sacramento. No Governor Brown there to meet them. Many top political and union officials greet marchers at state capitol, effort praised.

April 12———Larry Itliong places fifth amongst nine candidates for city council. Is top vote getter in workers section of community. Other things keep candidate busy, is unable to campaign for self.

April 26———Director of Organizations for the AFL-CIO, Bill Kircher, visitor in Delano, walks picket lines.

April 29———AWOC Strike Director today was in Anaheim to ~~attend Farm Labor Conference~~ attend Steel Workers' Conference. Sister Ann Draper featured speaker. Itliong also to speak.

In The Future—Complete victory for the grape strikers in a called to force growers to bring their workers into the 20th Century. REMEMBER, UNTIL THEN, YOUR FULL MORAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS NEEDED. THEN VICTORY WILL OURS!!!